

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 IO-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /122 W

----- 019689

R 260810 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2219

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KAMPALA 1101

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PFOR UG TZ

SUBJECT: INVASION THREAT FROM TANZANIA

1. OVER WEEKEND GOU HAS ANNOUNCED QTE IMMINENT UNQTE INVASION FROM TANZANIA. ORIGINAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON MARCH 23 SAID ADVANCE PARTY HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY SECURITY FORCES. ADVANCE PARTY ALLEGEDLY CLAIMED THAT 3,500 SOLDIERS WERE MASSED ON TANZANIA BORDER READY TO ATTACK. FORCE WAS MADE UP OF TANZANIA SOLDIERS, UGANDAN GUERRILLAS AND NON- CITIZEN ASIANS. THEY WERE TARGETED AGAINST THREE " FRONTS"-- MBARARA, MASAKA, AND ENTEBBE. LATER IN WEEKEND, GOU ANNOUNCED AGAIN THAT ATTACK WAS IMMINENT. GOU MILITARY SPOKESMAN SAID FURTHER THAT IF ATTACK OCCURS, UGANDA WILL QTE HIT HARD, ESPECIALLY HEADQUARTERS WHERE THESE AGGRESSORS' ACTIVITIES ARE BEING DISCUSSED UNQTE. BLAME FOR EVERYTHING, HE ADDED, MUST BE BORNE BY NYERERE. UGANDAN TROOPS WERE TOLD TO STAY CLOSE TO THEIR BARRACKS.

2. COMMENT: OBSERVERS IN KAMPALA ARE MORE BAFFLED THAN USUAL BY THESE LATEST DECLARATIONS. ATMOSPHERE HERE IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOTHING LIKE WHAT IT WAS IN SEPTEMBER 1972 AT TIME OF GUERRILLA INVASION. IF AMIN AND UGANDAN MILITARY ARE REALLY EXPECTING INVASION FROM TANZANIA THEY SHOULD BE MASSING FORCES IN SOUTH, BUT WE HAVE NOT PERSONALLY OBSERVED ANY MAJOR TROOP MOVEMENTS AND CAN' T FIND ANYONE ELSE WHO HAS EITHER. MANY CONTACTS, INCLUDING UGANDANS, BELIEVE WHOLE THING HAS BEEN TRUMPED UP BY AMIN AND HIS COHORTS, EITHER TO KEEP TROOPS PREOCCUPIED WITH FOREIGN THREAT SO THEY DON' T DO ANYTHING AGAINST REGIME OR TO HAVE EXCUSE TO KEEP THEM TIGHTLY CONTROLLED IN BARRACKS AWAITING ORDERS TO MOVE AGAINST THE ENEMY. FRENCH AMBASSADOR THABAULT TOLD PAO MARCH 24 HE HAD CHATTED WITH COL. NYANGWESO, ACTING UGANDAN ARMY COMMANDER, EARLIER THAT EVENING AND COLONEL HAD ASSURED HIM ALL UNITS WERE IN THEIR BARRACKS, THERE HAD BEEN NO MASSING OF TROOPS ON TANZANIAN BORDER, AND MILITARY SITUATION IN COUNTRY WAS QUIET.

KEELEY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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